

In the Claims:

1 1. (original) A method for operating an electronic module (10)
2 supplied with electrical energy by an operating voltage
3 source (U_{Bat}) with a circuit unit (3) for carrying out at
4 least one system function, wherein in the event of an
5 operating voltage interruption the operating voltage (U_s) is
6 supplied by a system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) and the
7 system function can be activated by means of the energy
8 reserve supplied by a function-autonomous capacitor (C_z) and
9 wherein furthermore the system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) is
10 charged by a voltage converter (1) connected to the
11 operating voltage source (U_{Bat}), characterized in that the
12 function-autonomous capacitor (C_s) is connected to the
13 voltage converter (1) and to the system-autonomous
14 capacitor (C_s) by means of a charging connection (5) and in
15 that said charging connection (5) is controllable in
16 following operating states:

- 17 a) as a switch for clocking the charging current charging
18 the function-autonomous capacitor (C_s), and
19 b) as a controllable resistance for producing a constant
20 discharging current for checking the system-autonomous
21 capacitor (C_s) and for producing a re-loading current
22 for re-loading the function-autonomous capacitor (C_z).

1 2. (original) A method according to claim 1, characterized in

2 that for checking the system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) it is
3 discharged into the function-autonomous capacitor (C_z).

Claims 3 to 5 (canceled).

[REMARKS FOLLOW ON NEXT PAGE]